

## Sustainable Farming Incentive – 2023 Updates

### Aims:

- Promote biodiversity
- Improve air quality
- Increase climate change adaptation
- Improve water quality

### New SFI Standards:

- Nutrient Management Standard
- Integrated Pest Management
- Hedgerow Standard
- Arable and horticultural land standard
- Improved grassland standard
- Low input grassland standard

### Hedgerow Standards:

- Similar to BE3, rotational hedge cutting
- Must produce written hedgerow assessment record within first 12 months
- Cut 1 in 3 years in autumn/ winter, cutting no more than 1/3 each year
- Cut no more than 50% every 2 years

Standard	Action	Payment Rate	Comparable CSS Option
Hedgerows	Assess & record hedgerow condition	£3/100m – one side	New
Hedgerows	Manage hedgerows with a range of heights and widths	£10/100m – one side	BE3
Hedgerows	Maintain existing hedgerows/ establish new ones, with at least 1 hedgerow tree/ 100m	£10/100m – one side	New

## Integrated Pest Management Standards:

- Can be applied on temporary grass, low-input grassland, improved permanent grassland, arable land.

### IPM Plan:

- BASIS qualified adviser must visit farm to assess current approach to IPM
- Identify & discuss IPM options
- Produce written IPM plan in first 12 months & update annually

Standard:	Action:	Payment Rate:	Comparable CSS Option:
Integrated Pest Management	Complete an IPM assessment and plan	£989/yr	New
Integrated Pest Management	Establish and maintain flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	£673/ha	AB8
Integrated Pest Management	Establish a companion crop – can be done in one area of land for 3 years	£55/ha	New
Integrated Pest Management	No use of insecticides on any parcels entered	£45/ha	New

## Nutrient Management Standards:

- Can be applied on temporary grass, low-input grassland, improved permanent grassland, arable land.
- Must create Nutrient Management Plan, assessing current nutrient requirements with a FACTS qualified adviser within first 12 months of agreement

Standard:	Action:	Payment Rate:	Comparable CSS Option:
Nutrient Management Plan	Complete a nutrient management (NM) assessment and produce an NM review report.	£589/yr	New
Nutrient Management Plan	Establish & maintain legumes to provide food for farmland birds & pollinators. Cannot be grazed, cut, sprayed with fertiliser or pesticides	£102/ha	GS4
Nutrient Management Plan	Establish & maintain legume fallow during first 12 months and maintain for 3 years. Can be added to existing sward	£593/ha	ABI5

### Arable & Horticultural Land Standards:

Standard:	Action:	Payment Rate:	Comparable CSS Option:
Arable & Horticultural Land	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of pollen and nectar flower mix. Cannot be cut or grazed, or have fertiliser, pesticides or manure applied	£614/ha	AB1
Arable & Horticultural Land	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of winter bird food in first year of agreement with 1-2 year mix. Maintain each year as required	£732/ha	AB9
Arable & Horticultural Land	Establish and maintain grassy field corners and blocks by sowing or natural regeneration. Do not graze or cut except to control injurious weeds, apply pesticides or fertiliser, or drive over.	£590/ha	New
Arable & Horticultural Land	Establish and maintain a 4m-12m buffer strip on arable and horticultural land. Do not graze or cut except to control injurious weeds, apply pesticides or fertiliser, or drive over.	£451/ha	SW1

### Improved Grassland Standard:

Standard:	Action:	Payment Rate:	Comparable CSS Option:
Improved grassland	Take grassland field corners and blocks out of management. Do not graze or cut, apply pesticides except for spot treating weeds, apply fertiliser, or drive over.	£333/ha	GS1
Improved grassland	Maintain improved grassland to provide winter bird food. Can be cut for silage/ hay then left un-grazed after the final cut of silage.	£474/ha	GS3
Improved grassland	Establish and maintain 4m-12m buffer strip on grassland around hedgerows, stone walls, woodland, ditches, rivers, streams, heritage features. Do not graze or cut except to control injurious weeds, apply pesticides or fertiliser, or drive over.	£235/ha	SW2

## Low Input Grassland Standard:

### To be used on:

- Permanent grassland – existing low input grassland
- Permanent grassland – improved grassland
- Temporary grassland
- Grassland that's registered as 'fully organic' or 'in conversion' with a Defra-licensed organic control body

### Actions:

- Graze with livestock/ cut to allow a variety of vegetation heights
- Maintain scrub and wet features
- Minimise bare ground and maintain sward throughout year
- Do not apply more over 12t/ha of FYM or equivalent fertiliser or organic manures.
- Do not apply pesticides, re-seed, plough or cultivate

### If cutting for conserved forage:

- Do not graze/cut it for at least 7 weeks prior, during the spring/summer months before cutting, to promote flowering grasses
- Leave an uncut margin around the edge of the land parcel when it's cut for conserved forage, to help provide shelter for invertebrates

Standard:	Action:	Payment Rate:	Comparable CSS Option:
Low input grassland	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs. Graze with livestock. Do not cut between 15/03-30/06.	£151/ha	GS2
Low input grassland	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs.	£98/ha	GS5